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MEDIA ALERT

March 15, 2006

Utah Commerce Department Deputy Named Along With Head of Consumer Protection Division

***“Move for Deputy of Commerce to GOED necessitates two changes in Commerce”
(For immediate release...)***

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – Francine Giani, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce, announced today the immediate appointment of Thad LeVar as Deputy Director of the Department along with that of Kevin V. Olsen as Director of the Department’s Division of Consumer Protection.

LeVar, of Tooele, has been serving as Director of the Division of Consumer Protection and with his move into the Deputy position for Commerce a search was conducted resulting in Olsen being named to that position. LeVar was picked as Deputy for Commerce after last week’s naming by Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr., of Jason Perry to head the Governor’s Office of Economic Development. Perry had been Deputy Director of Commerce for the past three years.

“It’s with the people of Utah in mind that I confidently name Thad and Kevin to these positions to solidify the strong team we have here at the Utah Department of Commerce with Consumer Protection, Securities, Corporations, Real Estate, Public Utilities and the Division of Occupational Licensing,” said Giani.

LeVar holds degrees in secondary education and law from Arkansas State University and the J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University. Beginning in April 2004, he worked for the Division of Consumer Protection as an Administrative Hearing Officer. Prior to that, LeVar was an Associate General Counsel to the Utah State Legislature where he drafted legislation in numerous subject areas, including many laws enforced by the Department.

In December 2005, LeVar was named Director of the Utah Division of Consumer Protection and has been serving in that capacity until today’s appointment.

“Thad, with his knowledge of the laws in place to protect the citizens of Utah, will be invaluable in this position of Deputy Director of Commerce,” Giani said.

Olsen, of Sandy, has been serving since December 2002 as Assistant Attorney General for the state of Utah’s Education Division. In that capacity, he has represented before state and federal trial and appellate courts such state agencies as the University of Utah Hospital, State Treasurer, Labor Commission, Utah Department of Transportation and the Utah Department of Commerce.

From December 1999 until going to the Attorney General’s Office in 2002, Olsen served as In-House Counsel and Administrative Law Judge for the Utah Division of Consumer

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Protection. Prior to that time Olsen worked as a private attorney as well as City Prosecutor for the City of South Salt Lake, Taylorsville City and City of South Jordan.

Olsen holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Utah and a law degree from the J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University. Presently he teaches torts and environmental law for the paralegal certificate at the Salt Lake Community College.

"In deciding who could immediately move into the position as head of Consumer Protection and begin protecting the interests of Utah's citizens as consumers it was obvious the choice needed to be Kevin," said Giani. "Not only will he hit the ground running but he's already been in the race assisting the Division and Department for some time now."

LeVar and his wife, Yvonne, are the parents of two children. Olsen and his wife, Karilee, are the parents of six children.

For more information about the Utah Department of Commerce and its divisions please go to www.commerce.utah.gov.

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